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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,224	03/23/2004	Cherng Linn Teo	200313679-1	5031
22879 7590 12/14/2007 HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			EXAMINER MORRISON, THOMAS A	
			ART UNIT 3653	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 12/14/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,224

Applicant(s)

TEO ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0164491 (Sakuma et al.).

Regarding claim 18, Figs. 1-8 show an inkjet printer (numbered paragraph [0046]) comprising:

a printhead (4) for printing a media sheet;

a front duplex module (including 10, 12, 11, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 22, 25, 1, 2, 30, 3, 5, 21, 28, 41, 42, 43, and 44) comprising: (i) a media path entry (near 22) where a media sheet to be printed can enter; (ii) a linefeed-roller assembly (including 13 and 27) configured to transport the media sheet entering the media path entry (near 22) toward the printhead (4) to enable printing on a first side of the media sheet; (iii) an output-roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28) configured to advance the media sheet in a forward direction or to reverse the media sheet in a reverse direction, wherein a simplex media path is defined between the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13 and 27) and the output-roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively,

element 28), and the printhead (4) is positioned downstream from the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13 and 27) along the simplex media path but upstream from the output roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28); and

a back duplex module (including 51) detachably coupled (numbered paragraph [0067]) to the front duplex module (including 10, 12, 11, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 22, 25, 1, 2, 30, 3, 5, 21, 28, 41, 42, 43, and 44), the back duplex module (including 51) being configured to provide a single, unidirectional loop path for flipping the media sheet one time to thereby enable printing on a second side of the media sheet, wherein the loop path has an entry portion (near 23) that is positioned next to the media path entry (near 22) for receiving the media sheet from the front duplex module (including 10, 12, 11, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 22, 25, 1, 2, 30, 3, 5, 21, 28, 41, 42, 43, and 44) and an exit portion (below 22) that is aligned to the simplex media path,

wherein the front duplex module (including 10, 12, 11, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 22, 25, 1, 2, 30, 3, 5, 21, 28, 41, 42, 43, and 44) and the back duplex module (including 51) are configured to provide a duplex media path that includes the loop path, and a duplex path entry (near 25) that is positioned adjacent to the output-roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28) but downstream (i.e., downstream in the reverse feeding direction to the left in Fig. 1) from the printhead (4) so as to enable a trailing edge of the media sheet to enter the duplex media path, and

wherein a portion of the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13) is positioned adjacent to the duplex media path such that, after the trailing edge of the media sheet entered through the duplex path entry (near 25), the trailing edge must bypass the

portion of the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13) and the media path entry (near 22) before entering the loop path.

Regarding claim 19, Figs. 1-8 show that the linefeed-roller assembly (including 27) and the output-roller assembly (28) are coupled to each other to provide a coordinated control for handling the media sheet.

Regarding claim 20, Figs. 1-8 show that the back duplex module (including 51) comprises a duplex roller (42 or 28) arranged to advance the media sheet along the loop path toward the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13 and 27).

Regarding claim 21, Figs. 1-8 show that the back duplex module (including 51) comprises two duplex rollers (28 and 42) arranged to advance the media sheet along the loop path toward the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13 and 27).

Regarding claim 22, Figs. 1-8 show that the front duplex module (including 10, 12, 11, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 22, 25, 1, 2, 30, 3, 5, 21, 28, 41, 42, 43, and 44) further comprises a pair of transfer rollers (22 and 25) arranged along the duplex media path to advance the media sheet along the duplex media path.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10/30/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues

Claim 18 recites an inkjet printer in which "the printhead is positioned downstream from the linefeed-roller assembly along the simplex media path but upstream from the output roller assembly." In other words, the output-roller assembly is "downstream" from the printhead along the simplex media path. Claim 18 further recites "a duplex path entry that is

positioned adjacent to the output-roller assembly but downstream from the printhead so as to enable a trailing edge of the media sheet to enter the duplex media path" (emphasis added).

The Examiner alleges that Sakuma discloses all of the elements of claim 18. Initially, the Examiner asserts that Sakuma discloses a "printhead" (4) that is positioned downstream from the "linefeed roller assembly" (including 13 and 27) but upstream from the "output roller assembly" (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28). Subsequently, the Examiner asserts that Sakuma further discloses "a duplex path entry (near 25) is positioned adjacent to the output roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28) but downstream (i.e. downstream in the reverse feeding direction to the left in Fig. 1) from the printhead (4)." However, these assertions are contradictory. If rollers 42, 43 and 28 are considered "downstream" from the recording head/printhead 4 along the simplex path, then the entrance to the duplex unit 51, which is positioned on the other side of the recording head 4, cannot be considered also "downstream" from the recording head 4 along the same path.

In response, claim 18 recites "the printhead is positioned downstream from the linefeed-roller assembly along the simplex path but upstream from the output roller assembly". Later, claim 18 recites "a duplex path entry that is positioned adjacent to the output-roller assembly but downstream from the printhead so as to enable a trailing edge of the media sheet to enter the duplex media path". It is important to note that the examiner relies upon the direction that the sheet travels to determine what is "upstream" or "downstream".

It is first noted that the simplex path of the Sakuma et al. publication starts near element 14 and goes up past element 22, and then over to the right through elements 25 and 43. The duplex path starts near element 25 and goes over to the left through the loop path in element 51 and continues to the point where the duplex path meets up with the simplex path (near 22). In other words, a sheet travels over to the right along the simplex path, but travels over to the left along the duplex path. This can change the

way that the terms "upstream" and "downstream" are interpreted. When the sheet is traveling to the right along the simplex path, the sheet is going "upstream" to the right. On the other hand, when the sheet is traveling to the left along the duplex path, the sheet is going "upstream" to the left. Thus, there is no inconsistency in saying that the sheet travels to the right (i.e., upstream) along the simplex path, and the same sheet travels to the left (i.e., upstream) along the duplex path. With this in mind, Fig. 1 of the Sakuma et al. publication shows that the printhead (4) is positioned **downstream** (i.e., **to the right**) of the linefeed-roller assembly (including 13 and 27) **along the simplex media path** but **upstream** (i.e., **to the left**) of the output roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28). Also, Fig. 1 of the Sakuma et al. publication shows a duplex path entry (near 25) that is positioned adjacent to the output-roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28) but **downstream** (i.e., **to the left** along the **duplex path**) of the printhead (4) so as to enable a trailing edge of the media sheet to enter the duplex media path. Thus, all of the limitations of claim 18 are met by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0164491 (Sakuma et al.).

Then, applicant argues

In addition, the duplex entry (near roller 25) is not adjacent to the ejection rollers 42, 43 (or the tension roller 28). Instead, the recording head 4 is positioned between the duplex entry and the ejection rollers 42, 43. Hence, contrary to what has been asserted by the Examiner, Sakuma does not disclose a duplex path with the duplex path entry as recited in claim 18.

Sakuma discloses a duplex system in which "the duplex paper feed unit 51 receives (captures) the sheet of paper 12 conveyed in the direction opposite to the belt conveying direction (in the Y1 direction in FIG. 1) by the reverse rotation of the conveying belt 21" (page 5, paragraph 66). This point of entry to the duplex path is far away from the ejection rollers

(42, 43). As such, the duplex path in Sakuma's apparatus is not the same as that recited in claim 18. In fact, Sakuma's duplex system is similar to the conventional duplex system shown in FIG. 1 of Applicants' specification. As discussed in the background section of the present application, the conventional duplex system shown in FIG. 1 suffers from not being able to print all the way to the trailing edge (page 2, first paragraph, of Applicants' specification). Because Sakuma fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 18, Sakuma cannot anticipate claim 18.

As mentioned above, claim 18 recites "a duplex path entry that is positioned adjacent to the output-roller assembly but downstream from the printhead so as to enable a trailing edge of the media sheet to enter the duplex media path". The dictionary defines the term "**adjacent**" as "1. Close to: NEARBY <the house and adjacent pond>". See Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary (1984), at page 78. Keeping this broad definition of the term "adjacent" in mind, it is the examiner's position that Fig. 1 of the Sakuma et al. publication shows a duplex path entry (near 25) that is positioned adjacent to (i.e., close to or nearby) the output-roller assembly (elements 42 and 43, or alternatively, element 28). Thus, all of the limitations of claim 18 are met by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0164491 (Sakuma et al.).

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

11/16/2007


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